



Handout to the

**Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education,
Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee,
and the House Education Committee**

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MSL's Five Year Strategic Plan provides both guidance and accountability

MSL's Long Range Plan for 2006 through 2011 was accepted by the Library Commission in August 2006. This comprehensive plan contains 30 pages of strategic initiatives covering all library programs. Find our Long Range Plan online at:

http://www.msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/strategic_plan/

MSL has adopted five GOALS...

1. Acquire and manage content
2. Provide convenient access
3. Provide consultation and leadership
4. Encourage partnerships and collaboration
5. Maintain an efficient and effective organization

...which became the basis for comprehensive program and staff work plans.

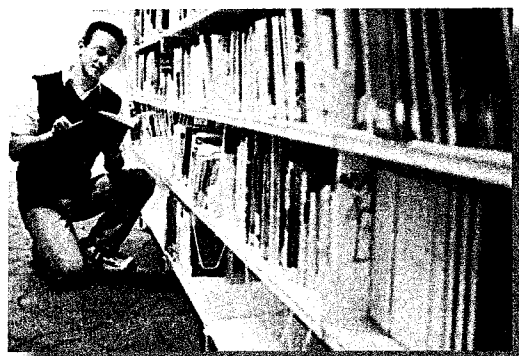
Montana State Library Strategic Plan 2006-2011

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY (MSL)
STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2011
August 15, 2006

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The State Library Commission, with the help of the Montana Library Community and our partners and patrons, is in the process of evaluating our current Long Range Plan, and is beginning to develop a new Long Range Strategic Plan.

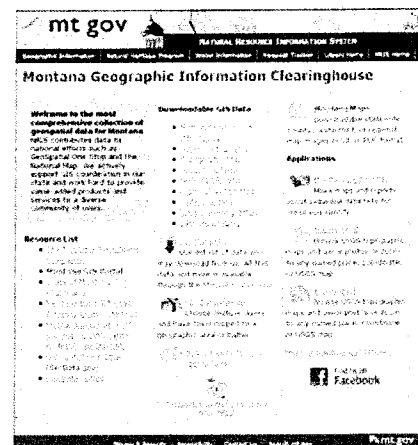


The State Library is accepting online feedback at
<http://montanastatelibrary.pbworks.com/>

Free account login required.

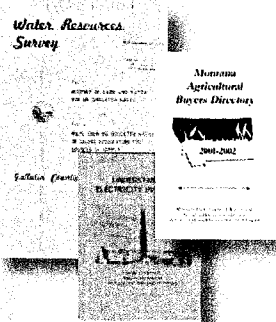
Natural Resource Information Systems (NRIS)

In September 2008, NRIS launched the Montana GIS Portal, a cooperative effort with the State Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) and GIS contributors around the state. The Portal functions much like an online library catalog. Users can search by subject, geographic area, title, publisher, and more. This portal is designed to assist GIS professionals, as well as the general public, find and use geographic information about Montana. Search results can be readily viewed in the Portal map viewer or downloaded to be used in professional GIS software. Visit the Portal online at: <http://gisportal.mt.gov/Portal/>.



In addition, NRIS:

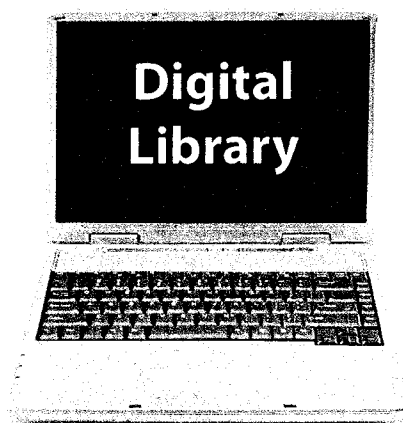
- Manages and provides access to an extensive online map library and GIS data collection that is used by both GIS professionals and the public;
- Develops and maintains internet mapping applications including the Montana Digital Atlas and TopoFinder;
- Responds to requests for maps and digital geographic data;
- Manages the Montana Water Information System, which provides a starting point for accessing information concerning Montana's water resources;
- Provides public access to information about the state's natural resources, including statewide air quality and drought status, through partnerships with state and federal agencies.



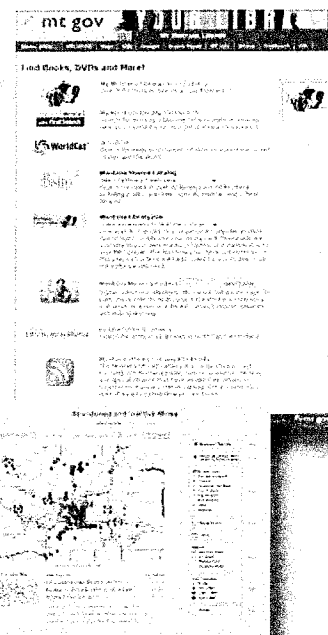
Montana State Library
Library Information Services



Montana State Library Natural Resource Information System



Montana
Natural Heritage Program



Talking Book Library

Serving Montana's blind and physically handicapped

Our Talking Book Library provides library services for individuals who are not able to read standard print.

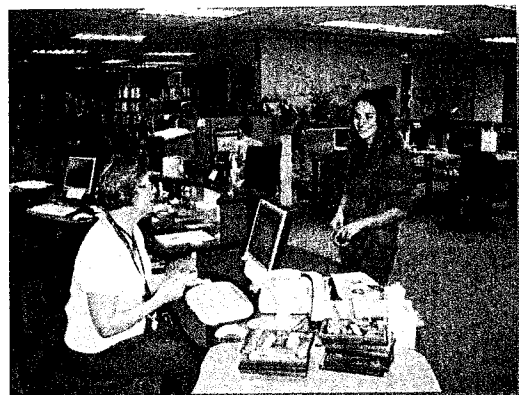
- Provides the only access point for Montana citizens to the National Library Service's Talking Book collections;
- 67,000 book titles, as well as magazines, descriptive videos, and a children's collection;
- Provides reading materials to nearly 4,000 Montana citizens with vision or other physical disabilities, and the organizations that serve them.



- Circulates nearly 260,000 materials each year;
- Median age of our Talking Book patron is 74 years;
- Two recording studios for recording Montana-related publications; one at the State Library and one at the Montana State Prison;
- Records an average of 50 "Montana" book titles each year, as well as two quarterly Montana magazines.

Montana Shared Catalog

- Currently serves 450,000 Montanans, 88 Montana communities, 133 libraries, and 360 librarians
- 3.3 million items in combined catalog
- Growing as staff and financial resources allow
- Approachable and easy to learn interface
- Annual circulation of nearly 3.5 million items



Montana State Library Patron Responses

Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)

"NRIS is critical to the efficient and effective use of natural resource data and information in Montana. Without the services NRIS provides, the cost of natural resource management and management services in Montana will increase and the quality will go down."

-Fred Gifford, Office Manager, Tetra Tech

"The assumption that NRIS will be available has been basic to our business strategy. If NRIS were not available, our business model would be significantly different. It is likely that we would not be able to provide services to our clients that we currently perform, and that our clients would be required to use a large, quite possibly non-local company rather than our small, Montana-based business."

-Carol Lee-Roark, Ph.D., Hyalite Environmental, LLP

"We consider these resources absolutely invaluable to our small business. Without them, we would be severely limited in our ability to serve our clients in a timely manner and that would adversely affect the business."

-Dave Baldwin, Principal, Senior Hydrogeologist, Water Right Solutions, Inc.

Library Information Services (LIS)

"The State Library has always been very helpful when I call or e-mail about questions, interlibrary loans, or hard to find materials. You people are doing a wonderful job. Keep up the good work!"

-Teena Friesz, Miles Community College

"It would be a real handicap if the MSL library were not here to make sure I have access, in a timely manner, to the information resources that I need to do a good job."

-Diane Tipton, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Statewide Library Resources (SLR)

"This Fall Workshop session gave us food for thought about the future of libraries and how we can meet the needs of our patrons. Great discussion on the real situations libraries face with regard to every advancing technology and items to receive information."

-Fall Workshop attendee

"Thanks a lot for participating in MontanaLibrary2Go. It's terrific! Lots of good choices. Bought a cheaper MP3 player and download to it - then listen while I knit. Good option since my eyes aren't so great anymore. You are so in tune with modern ways to go and I appreciate that."

-Dillon library patron

Talking Book Library (TBL)

"I downloaded my first book yesterday and want to thank you for your personalized help. For years I've thought the Talking Book Library set a wonderful example in excellence of service that could be well modeled by the private sector. Your library 'sets the bar' for quality."

-Anaconda patron

"I am so enjoying listening to books on the new (digital) reader. It is so easy to keep all the buttons straight in my head (and fingers). Thank you for your help in making literature part of my life again."

-Culberston patron

"I hear about book titles from my sighted friends and have always been able to find it at the Talking Book Library (TBL). I tell my friends and anyone who will listen that TBL has been my salvation."

-Dutton patron

Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP)

"MTNHP's resources and staff are vital to my ability to get my job done. I believe that MTNHP is one of the best resources available to landscape managers in the state. I would have a very difficult time evaluating the potential for pesticide use to affect our species if I did not have the MTNHP to turn to. I strongly support the MTNHP, appreciate your work - and look forward to more resources being available in the future."

-Amy Bamber, Montana Department of Agriculture

"Prior to the development of the [Natural Heritage] Program, we had to develop [rare plant and animal species] information through a difficult process of literature review...and contact with knowledgeable individuals...both time consuming and expensive. The [Natural Heritage] Program has not only assembled this information in one readily accessible location, but has actively increased the base of knowledge about many species in Montana. This knowledge would otherwise be lacking or extremely difficult to acquire."

-Pat Farmer, President, Westech Environmental Services

"We use the resources provided by the MTNHP in our day-to-day planning and design activities for the Montana Department of Transportation. The resources of the MTNHP are absolutely invaluable to us as we plan and design work for MDT, in the most timely and economically effective manner possible. Having a 'one stop shopping location' for this information is vitally important and the most efficient use of our time."

-Larry Sickerson, Montana Department of Transportation

